EATON BRAY

Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

[illegible]

FOR THE YEAR, 1907.

1908.

[illegible]

TO THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

EATON BRAY.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present to you my Report upon the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Eaton Bray Rural District for the year 1907.

Physical Features and General Characters of the District.

Spread over a very considerable area, the physical features vary in different parts. The District is mostly agricultural, with sand pits in the neighbourhood of Heath-and-Reach, which yield different kinds of this valuable material, in which an extensive trade is carried on. A good many of the Heath-and-Reach working men find regular employment in these pits.

In Eaton Bray and its neighbourhood, there are numerous plum orchards, the soil being specially suitable for this fruit, so that plum growing is the principal industry of this part of the District.

The population of the whole District is probably but little changed since the census of 1901, and is therefore about 4,100.

Births and Birth Rate.

Eighty-five births were registered during the year — an increase of nine on the previous year. The birth rate is 20·73 per thousand.

Deaths and Death Rate.

Forty-one deaths have occurred in the District, making the death rate 10·00 per thousand ; also, six deaths of "residents" have been registered in public institutions beyond the District, making the total death rate for the District 11·46 per thousand.

The infantile mortality (the proportion of deaths of children under one year of age to every thousand births) is 94·12.

Zymotic Diseases.

Eleven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, one being in Heath, three in Eaton Bray, four in Stanbridge (all in one family), and three in Wingfield (also all in one family.)

Five cases of Enteric Fever were notified—one in Heath, one in Eaton Bray, one in Little Billington, and two in Stanbridge (both in one family).

Phthisis.

There were five deaths from Phthisis, and one from other tubercular diseases.

Sewerage and Drainage.

In Eaton Bray village a sewage system was opened about two years ago. The system is a sewage farm—all the sewage passing into pits in a field of nine acres—from whence it is distributed over the field by means of open trenches. The field is let in plots to different tenants who cultivate crops, one lot being retained by the Council.

There is no sewage system in any other part of the District. The majority of the cottages have privies with pails, the contents of which are dug into the gardens. A few have cess-pits, but these are gradually being done away with. As soon as any of them become a nuisance, the Sanitary Inspector takes the opportunity of ordering pails.

Excrement Disposal.

With the exception of Eaton Bray, all the villages dispose of their excrement in their gardens and allotments; Eaton Bray having its own sewage farm.

In the case of cess-pits, the work of emptying is carried out at night.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.

All the houses have ash-pits for the reception of the house refuse, and these are emptied periodically and the contents are dug into the gardens and allotments.

Water Supply of District.

The water supply is entirely from wells throughout the whole District.

At Heath there is one deep well on the green sand which supplies nearly the whole village from a pump on the Village Green.

There is also a deep well at Billington, which supplies many of the villagers.

With these exceptions, the rest of the District has numerous wells for individual cottages or groups of cottages. Many are pure, some are decidedly suspicious.

Slaughter Houses.

There are twelve slaughter houses, all have been inspected and found satisfactory except one, which requires a new floor, and should be connected to sewer.

Supervision over Erection of New Houses

is effectively exercised; plans being submitted to the Council and passed by them before erection. Inspection is made before occupation is permitted.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

None of the Dairies and Cowsheds in the District have been registered, nor until the present year (1908), was the necessity of registration made public. Notice has now been given by advertisement, calling on all Dairy and Cowshed Owners to register within a given time, and drawing their attention to the penalty incurred by failure to comply with this order.

Together with Mr. Broom, the Sanitary Inspector, I made a careful tour of inspection through the whole District, visiting every farm, and I believe we have accurately ascertained the number of places which come under this head, and have carefully inspected them all.

There are twenty-seven cowsheds, in three only of which the cows are kept and fed indoors. Those three were good sheds, well floored and drained, well lighted and efficiently ventilated, but in all three we ordered lime-washing. In the other twenty-four, the cows are practically only brought in for milking, and graze out daily all the year. We did not therefore, consider the condition of those sheds material.

There are two milk-sellers who do not keep milk shops, but send the milk straight to the consumers on delivery.

There are twenty-seven dairies, and the great majority are clean and well kept. In a few cases we had to point out the desirability of frequent lime-washing. Some are models of what an ideal dairy ought to be, and I believe that throughout the whole District, butter of excellent quality and absolute purity is made.

Bakehouses.

There are thirteen Bakehouses in the District All have been inspected. In four cases we ordered lime-washing, otherwise they were all quite satisfactory and decidedly clean.

Factories and Workshops.

Two Flour Mills in Eaton Bray,
One Carpentry Workshop in Egginton,
A Wheelwrights' in Heath,
Do. in Hockliffe,
Do. in Eaton Bray,
and three or four village forges comprise all that can fairly be included under this head.

The work in these places is done under the healthiest possible conditions.

These places have never been registered, but a register is now being prepared.

Schools.

The Schools are as follows—

One in Heath, one in Hockliffe, one in Egginton, one in Stanbridge, one in Eaton Bray, and one in Tebworth.

All have sufficient ventilation and cubic feet per child, and are supplied with suitable sanitary conveniences.

The only adverse criticism I have to make is with regard to the Stanbridge School sanitary conveniences. When I inspected them they were absolutely clean, and the teacher informed me that he inspects them daily in order that their cleanliness may be effectively supervised. But the system is bad and out of date. They are privies discharging into cess-pits which are kept closely covered, and are periodically emptied. The privies are situated much too near the School, and the cess-pits are in a narrow yard between the privies and the School. I think those cess-pits should be abolished altogether, and earth closets, or even pails, should be substituted. Also, if possible, the situation of the privies should be changed, as it is not desirable to have them at so short a distance from the wall of a school-room, with windows opening on that side.

Nuisances.

The Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Broom, has given me the following statement—

Nature of Notice.	Result of Notice.
12 cases lime-washing ordered	remedied
8 cases of bad privy pits full, tenants ordered to empty	do.
11 cases, refuse and dung pits ordered to be removed	do.
4 cases, defective drains to dumb wells ...	do.
3 notices to remove pigs, too close to dwelling house	do.

A nuisance from a blocked drain in Eaton Bray, which requires urgent attention, has not been remedied, owing to disagreement between neighbouring property owners. This is under the consideration of the Council.

A nuisance also exists in Stanbridge in the pollution of ponds with sink waste from houses. This is really a great nuisance in hot weather, and is under the consideration of the Council.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1907 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in district.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District	Deaths at all Ages Nett.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.*				Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	4115	90	21·14	11	122·22	46	11·17			3	46	11·17
1898	4112	85	20·67	13	152·94	40	9·75			5	40	9·75
1899	4109	98	23·82	12	122·44	64	15·58			4	64	15·58
1900	4107	103	25·00	13	126·21	66	16·07			3	66	16·07
1901	4101	101	24·62	6	59·40	46	11·21			1	46	11·21
1902	4101	96	23·50	5	52·00	51	12·43			8	51	12·43
1903	4101	100	24·38	6	60·00	43	12·19			3	43	12·19
1904	4101	103	25·11	10	97·08	60	14·63			1	60	14·63
1905	4101	74	18·04	5	67·56	43	10·48			2	45	10·97
1906	4101	76	18·53	8	121·21	59	14·39			7	66	16·09
Averages for years 1897–1906	4105	92	22·48	9	98·10	52	12·79			3	52	13·01
1907	4101	85	20·73	8	94·12	41	10·00			6	47	11·46

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water). } 13605

At Census of 1901.

Total population at all ages 4101

Number of inhabited houses ... ...

Average number of persons per house ...

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1907.

	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	No of cases removed to Hospital from each locality.
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	11	...	2	7	1	1	...	6
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	5	...	...	3	2	...	...	2
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Puerperal fever		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ..	16		2	10	3	1		8

Isolation Hospital—Dunstable Joint Isolation Hospital.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1907.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District							Total Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Small-pox ...															
Measles ...															
Scarlet fever ...															
Whooping-cough ...															
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...															
Croup ...															
Fever { Typhus ...															
Fever { Enteric ...	1				1										
Fever { Other continued...															
Epidemic influenza ...															
Cholera ...															
Plague ...															
Diarrhœa ...															
Enteritis ...															
Puerperal fever ...															
Erysipelas ...															
Other septic diseases ...	1		1												
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	5				1	3	1								
Other tubercular diseases	1					1									
Cancer (malignant disease)	5					3	2								
Bronchitis ...	4					1	3								
Pneumonia ...	3	2				1									
Pleurisy ...															
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...															
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ...															
Venereal diseases ...															
Premature birth ...	1	1													
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...															
Heart diseases ...	3	1				2									
Accidents ...	1					1									
Suicides ...															
All other causes ...	22	4				6	12								
All causes ...	47	8	1		2	18	18								

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes. Certified ...	1	2		1	4			1		1	1			1			8
All Causes. Uncertified ...																	
Small-pox ...																	
Chicken-pox ...																	
Measles ...																	
Scarlet Fever ...																	
Diphtheria: Croup ...																	
Whooping Cough ...																	
Diarrhœa, all forms ...																	
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ...																	
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...																	
Premature Birth ...	1				1												
Congenital Defects ...								1									
Injury at Birth ..																	
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation ...																	
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus				1	1												
Tuberculous Meningitis ...																	
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica ...																	
Other Tuberculous Diseases																	
Erysipelas ...																	
Syphilis ...																	
Rickets ...																	
Meningitis, *not Tuberculous*																	
Convulsions ...		1			1									1			
Bronchitis ...																	
Laryngitis ...																	
Pneumonia ...										1	1						
Suffocation, overlaying ...																	
Other Causes ...		1			1												
	1	2		1	4			1		1	1			1			8

Births in the year { Legitimate, 80. / Illegitimate, 5. }

Deaths in the year of { Legitimate infants, 8. / Illegitimate infants, }

Population (estimated to middle of 1907) ... 4,101.

Deaths from ALL CAUSES AT ALL AGES ... 47.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries.)	...	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries.)... ...	...	...	...
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report,)	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...

Those referred to in the body of the accompanying Report have been ascertained by systematic inspection through the District. They have never been registered—but a register is now being prepared—and at completion of this, proper inspections will be made.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects. Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions
*Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—**				
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...
Want of ventilation	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...
† Sanitary accommodation — insufficient	...	...	...	...
† Sanitary accommodation — unsuitable or defective ...	...	...	...	...
† Sanitary accommodation — not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100).	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	...	...	...	...
Total	...	...	...	...

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

3.—HOME WORK.

No lists received from employers.

So far as we know, there is no home work. Many girls from the Eaton Bray District go daily to Dunstable to work in factories. Many from other villages go daily to Leighton Buzzard to work in workshops.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

The only registered Workshops at present are Bakehouses	13
Total number of Workshops on Register	13

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.		Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories —		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s.133) ...		none.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	Notified by H.M. Inspectors	do.
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H M. Inspector	do.
Other		do.
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—		
Certificates granted during the year...		do.
In use at the end of the year		do.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN G. DURRAN, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.